GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2811
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
MOBILE UNDER BHARAT NIRMAN YOJANA
Gamang Shri Giridhar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for village connectivity with reliable, viable and feasible telephone and radio-telephony including mobile under Bharat Nirman programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and the equipments allotted since the starting of the scheme, location-wise;

(d) whether there is any difference between normal telephone development programme and Bharat Nirman programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Under telephone component of Bharat Nirman Programme, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 remaining unconnected villages in the country.This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. Out of these 66,822 villages, 14,183 remotely located villages were to be provided VPTs through Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs). As on 31st July, 2007 a total number of 49,240 VPTs have been provided.

(c) A sum of Rs. 277.11 crore has been allocated by USOF for the scheme during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08. Out of this, Rs. 87.25 crore has been disbursed as subsidy support for provision of these VPTs since the starting of the scheme. Details are given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation	Subsidy disbursement
2005-06	29.86	
2006-07	117.11	55.40
2007-08 (First Quarter)	160.00	1.99

A statement indicating the year-wise and Sate-wise details of disbursements of funds for provision of VPTs as on 31st July, 2007 is given in the Annexure. The allotment of the equipment is not a part of the scheme.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In addition to Bharat Nirman Programme, USOF has launched another scheme for provision of subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 States for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. The infrastructure so created shall be shared by three service providers for provision of mobile service including other Wireless Access Services like Wireless on Local Loop (WLL). The agreements effective from 01.06.2007 have been signed with the successful bidders in May, 2007. Mobile services through these shared towers are targeted to be made operational in a phased manner by May, 2008.